

November 3, 2014



Paul Blicharz (Chair)

Paul Blicharz was born Deaf in Stockton, CA in 1949. He attended California School for the Deaf in Berkeley (later moved to Freemont, CA.) in 1955 and graduated with a diploma in 1968. After graduating from high school, he attended Gallaudet College (later was named Gallaudet University) in Washington, DC and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1974.

He married his late wife, Linda C. D'Antoni in 1977 and raised two children: William and Brenda. (The family moved from Maryland to St. Louis, MO in 1986.) He was appointed as a Commissioner of MCDHH by Gov. Bob Holden on March 22, 2002. He is currently the vice-chairperson of the Commission this year.

Paul is also the 1st Vice President of MoAD; Secretary of Greater St. Louis Chapter (GSLC) of MoAD; Secretary of St. Louis Catholic Deaf Society; and President of St. Louis Metro Round Table Representatives on Deafness, Inc./Deaf Community Center.

Paul states "My experience while I am on MCDHH Commission was very rich, especially being as a chairperson that handled the changes of MCDHH Executive Director three times. I believe that I have not missed one meeting of MCDHH Commission in 11 years. I am more than happy to help MCDHH in any way MCDHH needs me as much as I can."



Donna Schreiner (Vice-Chair)



A second generation deaf, Donna Schreiner has been a Teacher Assistant for the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) since 2003. She has extensive experience in the education sector working with DHH students utilizing the various modes of communication. She is a strong advocate for the deaf, has dealt with DHH issues and barriers all her life and overcame them, personally and professionally. She holds a Bachelor's in Biology from George Mason University. She is a proud mother of three deaf daughters who all have received college degrees. Her passions outside of work include exercising, reading, interior designing, and spending time with her family and friends.

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Owen Vandevelde



Owen VandeVelde is a product development engineer at AccelerOptics, a division of H.E. Williams, where he specializes in developing solid state lighting devices. During his career he has worked with companies such as Hasbro, Honda, Nissan, and Harley-Davidson Motor Company helping them bring their new product concepts into production. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Kansas City's Executive MBA program. He has been Hearing Impaired his entire life, VandeVelde found his way to advocacy shortly after his daughter's birth when she was flagged with a hearing impairment during her newborn hearing screening. His goal is that all sensory challenged children in Missouri have access to the best suitable solutions necessary to help them maximize their learning and development potential. He currently resides in Kansas City, MO with his wife Catherine, and young daughter, Lucinda.

Mary Hale

Mary Hale moved to St Louis from Columbus, Ohio after living there for 7 years in July, 2008. Originally she was raised and lived in the Chicago are until the year 2000. She has been married for 41 years with two grown children. She worked full time for almost 25 years with AT&T.

Mary Hale has Usher Syndrome type 2; she was born hard of hearing, presently has a cochlear implant in one ear and severe loss in other with a hearing aid. She began losing her vision in late teens due to "RP" and has been legally blind for over 25 years.

She is currently a member of American Association of the Deaf-Blind and a member of the Ohio Association of the Deaf-Blind since 2003. As of right now, she is the founder and President of Sight and Sound Impaired of St Louis since the year 2008. She has Co- Coordinated an SSP Workshop for the Deaf-Blind in St. Louis in 2009. She is also the founder and coordinator of the GAB (Games Accessible for blindness) at the Society for the Blind since 2009.

She is a member of the HLA-GSL (Hearing Loss Association of Greater St. Louis), MCB (Missouri Council for the Blind) since 2008. She is also a member of the American Association of the Deaf-Blind since 2003. She has been featured in many different newsletters from HLA-GSL to the Helen Keller National Center Newsletter. To this day, she travels all over the state of Missouri to educate the people about Deaf-Blind.



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Wendy Jensen



Since 2007, Wendy Jensen has been an administrator with the Countywide Program for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing at Special School District in St. Louis County. During that time, she had the privilege of attending the mentor training offered through CAEBER's ASL/English Bilingual Professional Development Program at Gallaudet University. Prior to joining SSD, Wendy served as the statewide Deaf Education Consultant and later as the Director of Student and Outreach Services at the Missouri School for the Deaf. She began her career as a teacher of the Deaf in Jefferson County and has worked as an interpreter in various settings, as well. Wendy holds an Ed.S in Educational Administration and a Master's in Communications from Lindenwood University, as well as an AAS in Interpreting from St. Louis Community College and a Bachelor's in Deaf Education from Northern Illinois University.

Gloriana Pack

Commissioner Gloriana Pack, a comprehensively certified and licensed interpreter in MO, graduated from Amherst College, Cum Laude, with a degree in Dramatic Arts. Upon graduation, and returning to St. Louis, she spent the first 4 to 5 years performing with The St. Louis Black Repertory Company. Having been raised by deaf parents, she was encouraged by her father to seek work at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley as a Sign Language Interpreter. In 1980, Ms. Pack started working as an Educational Interpreter. Shortly thereafter, she became RID Certified (IC/TC). While working at the Community College, together with her colleagues, she created a full-fledged sign language performing company known as "Celebration." Celebration would impact the deaf and hearing communities all over St. Louis and as far away as Alaska. Commissioner Pack has interpreted in a variety of settings that also included work with the Department of Mental Health, City of St. Louis' Office on the Disabled, and freelance work in legal, medical, and, theatrical settings. While residing in Atlanta, Georgia she served as Evaluator with Georgia Quality Assurance Screening Test (GA- QAST). Currently, her primary work involves education, video relay, and religious interpreting. At present, she serves as Midwest Regional Representative on the board of the National Alliance of Black Interpreters, Inc. (NAOBI) and was instrumental in the establishment of the St. Louis Chapter of NAOBI: NAOBI-STL, where she holds the title of Vice President. Last but not least, Commissioner Pack is serving a second year as the Chairperson of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In this capacity, she provides supervisory oversight to the Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as she works with and on behalf of the Commission to move MCDHH "onward and upward."

